

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

VIRGINIA CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

BRUSH MANAGEMENT

(Acre)

CODE 314

DEFINITION

Removal, reduction, or manipulation of non-herbaceous plants.

Brush Management will not be used to control weed species or other undesirable herbaceous plants by clipping, spraying or other weed control methods. See Virginia Conservation Practice Standard *Pest Management (Code 595)*.

PURPOSE

This practice may be applied as part of a conservation management system to accomplish one or more of the following purposes:

- Control of undesired brush species
- Management of brush species to maximize wildlife habitat and/or restore natural plant communities

Brush Management will be used in Virginia to control the following species:

- Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)
- Multi-flora Rose (*Rosa multiflora* Thunb.)
- Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata* Thunb.)
- Coralberry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*)
- Gray Dogwood (*Cornus foemina*)
- Ailanthus (*Ailanthus altissima*)
- Various sumac species and any other nuisance species

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

- On cropland, pastureland, hayland or on other land where removal of excessive woody (non-herbaceous) plants is desired
- On wildlife land, woodland, or other areas managed primarily for wildlife habitat

These are considered to be invasive species that hinder proper management of grassland areas.

This practice will be planned and applied in a manner to meet the habitat requirements of the wildlife of concern.

CRITERIA

Brush Management will be applied in a manner to achieve the desired control of the target woody species and protection of desired species. This will be accomplished by mechanical, chemical, biological, prescribed burning or a combination of these methods.

This practice will also be planned and applied in a manner that will not adversely affect threatened or endangered species or their habitats.

Any burning operations will be consistent with Virginia Conservation Practice Standard *Prescribed Burning (Code 338)* and in compliance with any state or local laws or

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

regulations dealing with fire, smoke, or other environmental concerns.

Any chemical use in planning and applying this practice will be consistent with NRCS policy on chemical use, the Virginia Pest Management Guide (most current publication), and label directions.

Regrowth or reoccurrence should be anticipated and planned for with spot treatment or other method. See Operation and Maintenance below.

CONSIDERATIONS

When planning for habitat management, consider control methods and season of application to create the desired plant community that will maintain or enhance wildlife and/or restore natural plant community balance.

When planning for brush control, plan to reduce competition for space, moisture, and sunlight between desired and unwanted species when selecting the appropriate method of control. Consider forage accessibility, quality, and quantity for livestock when planning for management of desired species.

When planning for any purpose, consider timely restoration efforts of desired vegetation or site conditions to protect soils, control erosion, reduce sediment, and improve water quality.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications will be prepared for the pastures, fields or other areas where the practice will be applied.

Plans and specifications will be based on this standard for the control of the desired species and may include narratives, maps, drawings, job sheets, or similar documentation.

The documentation will include:

For mechanical or prescribed burning treatments:

- Area to be treated
- Species to be treated
- Best time of year to treat
- Techniques or procedures to follow
- VA-Environmental Evaluation 1(VA EE1) to address environmental and cultural resource concerns
- Proper disposal method of debris (mechanical only)
- Erosion control and/or stabilization method

For chemical treatment:

- Area to be treated
- Species to be treated
- Herbicide to be used (see criteria above)
- Rate and timing of application
- Written reference to label instructions
- Any special application techniques, timing considerations or other factors that must be considered to ensure the safest, most effective, and environmentally safe application of the herbicide

For biological treatment:

- Area to be treated
- Species to be treated
- Kind of biological agent or grazing animal to be used
- Timing, duration, and intensity of grazing or browsing

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Practice application will be through the use of approved materials and procedures. All

operations will comply with local, state, and federal laws and ordinances. Following treatment, some regrowth, resprouting, or reoccurrence of brush should be expected. Spot treatment of individual plants or areas needing retreatment should be done as needed and documented in the site specifications.

REFERENCES

1. Virginia Pest Management Guide
published by the Virginia Cooperative
Extension Service (Most current
publication, i.e. current year).
2. General Manual-Section 190, Part 404,
"Pesticides".
3. General Manual-Section 190, Part 410,
"Compliance with NEPA".
4. NRCS National Range and Pasture
Handbook – Prescribed Burning Policy.

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BRUSH MANAGEMENT

Approved Practice Narrative

(Acre)

CODE 314

314 D1 BRUSH MANAGEMENT:
Remove or control undesirable brush species
through the use of mechanical, chemical,
biological, or burning control methods.
Specific recommendations will be given to
address target species and desired method.

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